

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for laser processing of a workpiece, the method comprising:

directing a laser beam through an inner sleeve of a processing nozzle of a laser processing head to a processing location of a workpiece;

supplying a cutting gas towards the processing location through a first gas supply channel of the nozzle and through a first annular cavity defined between the inner sleeve and an outer sleeve that surrounds the inner sleeve when the laser processing head is used for laser cutting; and

supplying a welding gas towards the processing location through a second gas supply channel of the nozzle and through a second annular cavity defined within the outer sleeve and being essentially concentric with the first cavity when the laser processing head is used for laser cutting.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the cutting gas and the welding gas are supplied concentrically around the laser beam.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the laser beam is a CO₂ laser beam.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising supplying a stream of pressurized gas in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of the laser beam.

17. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
fluidly coupling the first cavity to the first gas supply channel, and
fluidly coupling the outer sleeve to the second gas supply channel.

18. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
forming the first cavity by forming a first annular gap between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve, and
forming the second cavity by forming a second annular gap in the outer sleeve.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein:
forming the first annular gap includes merging the first annular gap into the first gas supply channel, and
forming the second annular gap includes merging the second annular gap into the second gas supply channel.

20. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising forming the first cavity by forming an annular channel from which a bore extends to a side of the nozzle.

21. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising forming the second cavity by forming an annular channel from which a bore extends to a side of the nozzle.

22. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising reflecting the laser beam towards the processing location of a workpiece to be processed with a mirror.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the mirror is a parabolic focusing mirror.

24. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

reflecting the laser beam towards the processing location of a workpiece to be processed with a mirror; and

supplying a stream of pressurized gas into the laser processing head in a direction perpendicular to a direction of the laser beam, wherein the stream of pressurized gas is supplied into the processing head between the mirror and the laser beam outlet and through a channel.

25. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising defining a beam guiding chamber in the inner sleeve that opens into an outlet, and fluidly coupling the first cavity to the outlet.

26. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising defining the second annular cavity within the outer sleeve.